

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 09875 141641Z

43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DEAE-00 IO-10 JUSE-00 SNM-02

TRSE-00 OES-05 OMB-01 HEW-06 USPS-01 AID-05 /082 W

----- 099222

O 141347Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1314

UNCLAS BOGOTA 9875

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: SNAR CO

SUBJ: NARCOTICS: CHARGE THAT US OPENS COLOMBIAN MAIL

1. LEADING BOGOTA DAILY, EL TIEMPO, HAS FRONTPAGED ARTICLE CHARGING THAT US CUSTOMS OPENS INTERNATIONAL MAIL FROM COLOMBIA SEARCHING FOR NARCOTICS. ARTICLE CITES "RECENT" (NOT OTHERWISE DATED) ARTICLE IN ST PETERSBURG TIMES QUOTING MIAMI CUSTOMS DIRECTOR JAMES TOWNSEND AS SAYING "ALL CORRESPONDENCE" FROM COLOMBIA IS INSPECTED AND CUSTOMS OFFICIAL JOEL MISCH AS CONFIRMING THIS. ST PETERSBURG ARTICLE APPARENTLY BASED ON COMPLAINT ABOUT MAIL OPENINGS FILED WITH SENATOR STONE BY ST PETERSBURG RESIDENT. EL TIEMPO ARTICLE ALSO QUOTES COLOMBIAN POSTAL AUTHORITIES AS STATING THEY WERE NOT AWARE OF THIS AND AS EXPRESSING SURPRISE BECAUSE "PRIVACY OF INTERNATIONAL MAILS IS SACRED".

2. SINCE WE MAY WELL BE QUERIED BY GOC AND/OR LOCAL PRESS WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED IF COLOMBIAN MAIL IS OPENED BY US AUTHORITIES FOR INSPECTION. IF SO, UNDER WHAT SYSTEM, I.E. ALL MAIL OR SPOT CHECKS, AND WHAT IS LEGAL BASIS FOR SUCH OPENING?  
VAKY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, DRUG CONTROL, POSTAL SERVICE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 OCT 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750355-1139  
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**Line Count:** 51  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15 SEP 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Subject:** NARCOTICS: CHARGE THAT US OPENS COLOMBIAN MAIL  
**TAGS:** SNAR, CO, US, ST PETERSBURG TIMES  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006